

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

April 13, 2004

4:30 PM

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Smith, Forest, O'Neil

Absent: Alderman Guinta

Messrs: Tom Lolicata, Lt. Valenti, Brian Volonte

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Ordinance Amendment submitted by the City Clerk's Office resulting from the sale of the Canal Street Garage:

“Amending Section 70.57(A) Parking Rates of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by deleting references to the Canal Street Garage.”

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to approve the amendment.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Dr. F. William Danby regarding the intersection of Salmon and Chestnut Streets in which he indicates holding city personnel personally liable.

Alderman Forest stated I believe Lt. Valenti is here. He does have some data on the accidents that have occurred there and the seriousness of those accidents and I'd just like him to make that presentation.

Lt. Valenti stated we've 13 accidents at that intersection since January 2003. That is a 15-month period. We've had .8 accidents per month at that intersection since 2003. I pulled the last seven accident reports at that intersection. One was an unsafe lane change, the person was south on Chestnut Street in the right hand lane and they went to make a left hand turn at the intersection and came in contact with a vehicle that was in the left-hand lane. Two were stop sign violations, one was a mechanic problem, steering rod failed, the vehicle south on Chestnut veered to the left and struck a parked vehicle. Two were failing to yield at the intersection and one was a possible speed violation on the operator that was south on Chestnut Street. We don't have any witnesses so there was no violation issued. Of the 13 accidents at that intersection, six were reported as personal injury, although I don't know if they were all counted for that resulted in personal injury. Sometimes that's the way it's reported to the Police and then when we do respond we find that there was no personal injury. In the year 2003 I pulled the data. The worst intersections in the City of Manchester for motor vehicle accidents were South Willow Street at the mall, South Willow Street and I 293, 430 Goffstown Road, which is at the intersection of Front Street, Weston Street and South Willow Street, Elm Street and Queen City Avenue, Bridge Street and Mammoth Road, Second Street and Queen City Avenue, Brown Avenue and I 293. All of those intersections have traffic lights. It is my belief that a traffic light at Salmon and Chestnut Streets won't resolve the problem there. A lot of these accidents are human error. Like I said, I don't believe a traffic light would change anything.

Alderman Forest stated so actually with the exception of one accident, they've all been driver error failing to adhere to the signals that are there already. Is that correct?

Lt. Valenti answered that's correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated I know in my many years here, both the Traffic Department and the Traffic Division of the Police Department have taken a good look at accidents and come back with recommendations that they thought were appropriate. This is not an appropriate case. I'm not particularly thrilled that we get threatened in a letter, but I know Mr. Lolicata has attempted to make some minor adjustments up there, which may help the situation. I think we're appreciative of that Tommy, but as Lt. Valenti has stated traffic lights...he mentioned to me earlier today at Salmon and Elm Street, which has lights had more accidents, just a block or two blocks west I guess. So just my statement, I think our departments are doing a great job in trying to address the needs and some of this is unfortunately the doctor doesn't agree with this, but some of this is enforcement and if maybe the doctor would help us get some Police officers so we could do enforcement in the City.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to receive and file the communication.

Chairman Sysyn advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

STOP SIGNS:

On Concord Street at Belmont Street, NEW, SWC – 4-Way School Zone
Alderman Sysyn

On St. James Avenue at Boynton Street, SWC
Alderman Smith

PARKING 2 HOURS (8AM-6PM, MON-FRI):

On Maple Street, east side, from Cedar Street to Lake Avenue (South Back Street)
Alderman Osborne

PARKING 3 HOURS (8AM-6PM, MON-FRI):

On Union Street, west side, from Amherst Street to Hanover Street
Alderman Guinta

RESCIND PARKING 1 HOUR:

On Union Street, west side, from Concord Street to a point 50 feet north of Hanover Street (Ord. #6238)
Alderman Guinta

NO PARKING:

On Welch Avenue, north side, from Calef Road to a point 60 feet west
Alderman Garrity

NO PARKING (EMERGENCY ACT):

On Valley Street, north side, from Maple Street to a point 45 feet west
On Valley Street, north side, from a point 400 feet west of Maple Street to Beech Street
Alderman Osborne

On Beech Street, west side, from Silver Street to a point 90 feet northerly
Alderman Shea

NO PARKING BUS STOP (EMERGENCY ACT):

On Valley Street, north side, from a point 170 feet west of Maple Street to a point 120 feet westerly
Alderman Osborne

PARKING 2 HOURS (MONDAY – FRIDAY) 8:00AM – 6:00PM:

On Maple Street, east side, from Cedar Street to Lake Avenue (South Back Street)
Alderman Osborne

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to accept the traffic agenda.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Discussion relative to a request of Brian Volonte seeking authorization to erect a “Welcome to Manchester” sign on South Willow Street.

Clerk Leblond-Kang stated I have a package here that he has prepared for the Committee.

Brian Volonte, 40 Countrywalk Drive, stated my Eagle project is a Welcome to Manchester sign located on Route 28 by the Manchester/Londonderry border. It is by the Yard Restaurant. What I’ve hoped to have a professional company make the sign and just base it off from what the Planning Department would like and I’ve already gotten some ideas from them and I also plan on following the rules from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. I’m not aquatinted with the book yet but I have some ideas.

Chairman Sysyn asked where are you going to put this Brian?

Mr. Volonte answered on Page 1 in the booklet there is an overview picture, at the arrow, right by the Yard Restaurant. Its on Route 28. Somewhere in the area of the arrow on Page 1. I’ve been told that it is City property. I went to the Planning Department and they told me that it was City property. I’m not sure yet about the digging. I still have to call Dig Safe to clear that so find if it is safe to dig there. Also your approve if I were to put such a sign there. On Page 2 is a picture of where the area is. The speed limit is 40 MPH on the road and on Page 3 of the booklet is a picture of a sign in New Jersey that I plan to model the Manchester sign off from, because the Planning Department liked the design and colors of the sign. And I also plan to incorporate the seal of City of Manchester and when it was incorporated as a city and maybe some mills just to make it a Manchester sign.

Alderman Forest stated I noticed on the last page, and other Aldermen noticed it also, that the sign is going to be constructed and installed by a professional sign company? Is that under the rules of the Eagle Scouts?

Mr. Volonte answered yes. It can be installed and put in by a professional company. It is just that I have plan the project and I have to show leadership within the project.

Alderman Forest asked on Page 3 I notice you show the sign at Best Western, is that the one at the Yard?

Mr. Volonte answered yes. That's the Best Western by the Yard Restaurant.

Alderman Forest asked is that where you intend to put it or is it on a traffic island as you're coming in from Londonderry?

Mr. Volonte answered the traffic island we saw was in the Londonderry border, so it's actually in Londonderry and so I would have to deal with the Town of Londonderry. But this was the next appropriate position for the sign and so we picked this.

Alderman Forest asked so you're going just north of where this Best Western sign is now?

Mr. Volonte answered right where the speed limit sign is. It is right in that vicinity.

Alderman O'Neil asked is that on South Willow Street? Correct?

Mr. Volonte answered yes it is.

Alderman O'Neil stated that's where I was a little confused because I don't know if they have a sign off from Mammoth Road as well, but that's on South Willow Street.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to authorize the request.

Alderman Smith stated Brian I would like to commend you on your leadership role and your dedication to the City of Manchester.

TABLED ITEMS

7. Portion of report of Traffic Committee referred back to Committee
04/08/2003 regarding the adoption of regulations:
One-Way Streets
Hollis Street
Kidder Street
(Tabled 04/08/2003 pending a meeting between Alderman Guinta, Tom Lolicata, and the constituents involved.)
8. Report, if available, from the Building Commissioner and City Solicitor regarding speeding up the demolition process.
(Tabled 08/12/2003 pending collection of comments from departments and final version of the ordinance.)
9. Report regarding parking garage contract RFP's.
(Tabled 08/12/2003)
10. Communication from Alderman Forest requesting that the City Clerk be allowed to study the parking control issue and report back to the Committee with recommendations.
(Note: This was approved on 02/10/2004; awaiting report from City Clerk.)
11. Report of the Traffic Committee recommending that all metered parking be changed from Monday-Friday, 8AM-8PM to Monday-Friday, 8AM-6PM.
(Tabled 03/09/2004 awaiting recommendations from Finance and Planning of a draft request for proposal for study of the City's downtown parking program and relative policies and identifying a source of funding for the study.)

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee